Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Thanks for being so generous supporting Year 6’s Mini Fete last Friday. The children had a fabulous time and Year 6 are to be congratulated for the huge effort they put in to organize and manage such a variety of activities. They raised $1,529.30 which will go towards the Year 6 Farewell and their gift to the school. This is an absolute record. No other year has achieved such a huge profit. It was really quite unbelievable and we can only thank you, our parents.

DEBATING
This week our school will be hosting the semi-finals and finals of the Newcastle District Year 5 train-on-debating squads. For the first time in ages, our school will not be represented, but we can supply an audience at each debate to learn from the skills of others. That way, we can improve, and in life there’s always room for that. We wish all the teams left in the competition great success.

NAPLAN RESULTS
We are very proud of how our students performed in the National Tests. It’s a bit difficult, because they sit for the tests in May, and we don’t find out the results until late September. The analysis comes even later.

In Year 5 we were above the State and Regional averages in every aspect of every test. Year 3 results were similar, apart from Reading, where we were slightly below the state average, but above the Regional average.

In Year 7, our concern with all of the schools in our cluster, was that the growth from Year 5 showed a downward trend generally. On close analysis, our school did fairly well with expected growth, but we can always do better.

We are given very detailed information on how students performed, and from this data we are able to work out our strengths and our gaps in learning, both in the school as a whole, and more importantly, with each individual student.

This is exactly what we are involved in at the moment in our in-school training and development. We analyse both the individual responses and individual student performances in each strand of each test. We even delve into how each question was answered. This is what informs much of our teaching and learning, to help students grow.

PARENT SURVEY
Our P&C Association is very concerned over what is happening, and what may happen, regarding our school canteen. A survey has been designed to elicit your responses to help us plan our future direction.

The canteen profits all come back to the school. Much equipment has been purchased from these profits over
the years, some requested by students. All purchases are beneficial to our children.

Please complete the survey, which is anonymous. Just mark the class your child is in because we are going to go against our beliefs and resort to "bribery", where chocolate frogs will be given to each student in the class which has the most parental responses. So folk, the 'chocolate fix' for your child is up to you!

We really want your thoughts. They are very important to us. Thanks! (It won't take you very long, but it's nearly worth the world to us.......well.....almost!)

SCHOOL UNIFORM
Thank you for ensuring your child wears school uniform every day. It is important that children are dressed for "working". Brand clothes are fine for after school and weekends because they say, "Relax, it's playtime".

My main concern is the number of brightly coloured sneakers that are becoming rather prevalent. At Whitebridge High, children will be sent home to get the correct footwear. So please avoid the pleadings. Stay firm and let your children know that school shoes are school shoes. They are black.

The other 'trend' seems to be, to let laces stay untied. This is extremely dangerous. Please ensure laces are done up. Thanks for your support in this matter and I know we have the support of our P&C in these requests.

I would really like to take this opportunity to congratulate our senior students who have settled down remarkably this term. It's wonderful to see them working together, for the common good and I'm really looking forward to taking this fabulous bunch of kids to Canberra towards the end of November.

♦ Huge congratulations to Isaac Taylor in Year 5, who is excelling in the field of Rugby League. He won his club's 'Best and Fairest' player award for 2012 and this is a fabulous personal achievement. He has also been invited to participate in the Newcastle Schoolboys' Development Program in the 2013 season. This is a huge honour. Well done Isaac...... maybe a future 'Kangaroo'.
♦ At one of Mrs Harvie's Anger Management courses, one of the students wrote: "Be happy! Who controls you? Don't give away your power and self-control to your temper. You can smile, act friendly, be cooperative and say positive things". This is such a good message—out of the mouth of a babe. Such a great lesson for all to learn. Well done!
♦ Hugh Sharman in 3D wrote a very creative story about a haunted house. What was even more special was his correct usage of speech marks, and he took a new line for each new speaker. For Year 3, that is quite amazing. Well done Hugh.
♦ Congratulations to Lara Tessier who gained a Middle School Honourable Mention at the Marie Walton-Mahon dance academy. Great effort Lara.
♦ Sophie Lawrence, Stacia Hanscombe and Ella Nicod were D grade finalists in the local junior hockey competition. Top try girls.
♦ Lucy Smithson's team in gymnastics came 1st overall in the State Championships, in Sydney recently. Lucy seems to be going from strength to strength, keeping her parents busy with lots of travelling. You should be proud of your efforts Lucy.
♦ Our Kahibah School cricket team plays in the next round of the PSSA KO against The Junction Public School this Friday at Smith Park in round 5. This is an outstanding effort. Best of luck boys.

STUDENT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES
Congratulations to
Mia Turley and Robbie Melia (KS),
Jayden Huang and Saffron Francis (KN)
and Ruby Crane(3/4N)

These are the new Student Council Representatives for this term.
**CHAPLAIN’S MESSAGE**
Thought for today.....

The people who make a memorable difference in your life, are NOT the ones with the most credentials, the most money or the most awards.

They are simply the ones who CARE the most. (And this is also one of my favourites!!! - Pam Richo)

Helen Harvie—School Chaplain

**ATHLETICS CARNIVAL**
All Athletic Carnival ribbons will be handed out at next Monday’s assembly. All ribbons for field events—shotput, discus and long jump will be given out at our 12.20 assembly in the hall. We need to apologise for other events, but the weather is way beyond our control. Thanks for your understanding in this regard.

**LOST PROPERTY**
We have a mountain of lost property, from jumpers to drink bottles. Many of these items are brand new! There are even brand new jackets, which cost nearly $50 and hardly worn. NO NAMES!!!

On Thursday Morning this week we will be displaying all items on the tables in the playground. Please come up and see if you can retrieve a lost item, or ask your child to do it. In a few weeks we will send this clothing to a charity.

Please also remember to clearly label all items sent to school, including lunch boxes. If clothing was to be labelled, we could find the owners. Instead, we have a pile of near - new clothing - an unbelievable amount!

Any items not collected will be given to charity.

Sincerely

Pam Richardson
Principal
23rd October, 2012

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Family Fun Day
Celebrating 80 years
Sunday 28th October 2012
10am till 2pm
Newcastle Jockey Club
Indoor Event
Darling Street, Broadmeadow
$10 per family
Food available for purchase on the day
Puppet Show, Reptiles, Jumping Castle,

Northern NSW Football in collaboration with Newcastle Football and Macquarie Football are running Quick Kicks at two locations near you National Park, Cooks Hill and CB Complex, Parklea Avenue, Croudace Bay.

Girls Quick Kicks incorporates a revised format of ‘the game’, in line with Small Sided Football, with a fun and non-competitive environment; with no points, no finals and no pressure! And it's exclusively for girls in Years 3 to 9! (Ages 8-15).
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<td>P&amp;C Meeting 7pm</td>
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<td>*Swim School</td>
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<td>*Kinder Orientation Day - 9.30am</td>
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